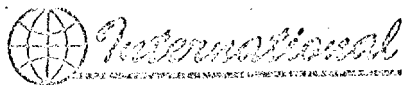


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# The CIA tries to teach its old mouthpiece

STATINTL

By ERIC BERT

The nature of the Central Intelligence Agency's infiltration into Soviet society is indicated by its avowed goal of the "liberalization of Soviet society." That is how its counterrevolutionary, anti-socialist, anti-Soviet program is presented in the Library of Congress study of Radio Liberty, the CIA's Munich-based vehicle for subversion.

The study was prepared at the request of Senator J. W. Fulbright, as chairman of the Foreign Relations committee. It was published in the Congressional Record of March 6.

In this vein the Central Intelligence Agency has expressed its concern, via RL, about the "serious institutional and ideological inadequacies" of the Soviet Union, about its "serious economic problems," the "most serious being the allocation of resources."

"Within the larger framework of (its) goals and purposes RL pursues immediate objectives," the Library of Congress study points out. These "practical themes" include "democratic political alternatives, economic reform, peaceful intentions of the democratic world, ideological irrelevance of Marxism-Leninism, and the virtue of cultural diversity and political pluralism."

The CIA's concern that socialism should flourish is also expressed over its other system of subversion by radio — Radio Free Europe, which, like RL, is based in Munich.

James Robert Price, author of the RFE Library of Congress study, holds that, "by and large, commentators tend to lean slightly toward the 'liberal' approach as this term is currently used in American policies."

This testimonial is especially noteworthy coming as it does from a (former) CIA agent.

"Stated Communist ideals" go untouched, not because the CIA is more sympathetic to communism than to capitalism but because it figures that attacks on the "implementation" of these "ideals" may be more productive of subversion.

But even here the CIA is cautious. Simply to attack defects in "implementation" is no assurance of an audience, since the people in the socialist countries know, better than the CIA does, what their problems are. They criticize their own demerits the better to correct them.

That is why CIA "criticism" is not "purely negative." Instead, "valid achievements are given due credit" in order to offer, "in abundance," what pretend to be "alternative approaches" to what the CIA describes as "stagnated courses of action."

The "general philosophical approach of RL is one that appeals to rationalism." The RL-CIA method of operation is, as the Library of Congress study puts it: RL "attempts to 'substitute reason for emotion, and a calm voice for stridency.' It begins from the premise that 'the most convincing presentation is one which that tells all sides of a story.'"

This philosophical approach was not employed when Saigon militarists gunned down President Ngo Diem, with the foreknowledge and probably inspiration of the CIA; nor does it reflect the years-long murder policy carried out in Indochina by the CIA.

Given peace in Vietnam, we can imagine the CIA resorting to "rationalism" in its operations there; if not instead of assassination, then in addition to it.

RL's preferred tone is "friendliness, enlightenment and dignity" the Library of Congress study relates.

In RL comments which described a "cliche" or "act" of Leonid Brezhnev as "stupid," the word "stupid" would be bluepencil-ed by an editor, the Library of Congress study said.

"Sarcastic expressions" about Brezhnev were deleted from a commentary beamed into the Soviet Union in June 1971; as were references to "'escape abroad,' 'escape from the homeland,' and a 'comparison between the USSR and a prison cell.'"

## new tricks

The Library of Congress RFE study cites the text of a birthday editorial broadcast by RFE on the occasion of the 60th birthday of the (unnamed) leader of an (unnamed) socialist country. The study notes that the original draft of the editorial had included a "petty and personal attack." But that this had been cleaned up prior to the broadcast.

The draft and the final text suggest both that RFE policy deplores dirty pool, and that dirty pool is inherent in its operations. RFE's policy is not based on decency but on the conviction that the rowdy intentions of its operatives do more harm than good, in the long run, and the CIA is in business for the long haul.

